

REMARKS

The Office action mailed 22 May 2003 has been received and its contents carefully noted. Claims 1-24 were pending. By this amendment, claim 18 has been amended, claims 11-13 and 19-23 have been canceled. Support may be found in the specification and the claims as originally filed. No statutory new matter has been added. Therefore, entry of the claims as amended is respectfully requested.

Restriction Requirement

In the Office action mailed 22 May 2003, the Examiner required a restriction as follows:

- I. Claims 1-10, 14-18, 24, drawn to isolated polypeptide, a pharmaceutical composition comprising the same and Kit comprising the same, classified in 435, subclass 200;
- II. Claim 11, drawn to polynucleotide, classified in claims 536, subclass 23.2;
- III. Claims 12-13, drawn to an antibody, classified in class 530, subclass 378.1;
- IV. Claim 19, drawn to a vaccine, classified in class 424, subclass 185.1;
- V. Claims 20-21, drawn to a method of inducing an immune response using the polypeptide, classified in class 436, subclass 500;
- VI. Claim 22, drawn to a method of providing passive immunity against ricin intoxication by using the antibody, classified in class 424, subclass 184.1; and
- VII. Claim 23, drawn to a method of treating or preventing ricin intoxication, classified in class 424/435, subclass 184.1/4.

The Examiner deemed that the inventions of Groups I through VII are distinct and unrelated to each other.

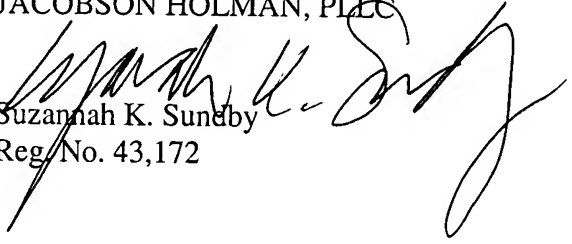
Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the claims of Invention I, without traverse. Applicants have canceled claims 11-13 and 19-23 which are directed to Inventions II-VII, without prejudice or disclaimer.

CONCLUSION

This election is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or inventions disclosed. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications to the non-elected groups. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, and consideration and allowance of all pending claims, are respectfully requested.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. If, however, extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 other than those otherwise provided for herewith are required to prevent abandonment of the present patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned, and any fees therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our **Deposit Account No. 210-380, Attorney Docket No. P67452US0 (RIID 01-58).**

Respectfully submitted,
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